

We're heading towards Christmas which means our annual gift catalogue will be sent to you with the newsletter in the hope that you will help us to raise the funds needed to support the Ngora Orphans and Vulnerable Children Project (NOVC). Read all about it and please give generously. Apart from this, we are concentrating on Permaculture, developments on the Kamuli land and two visits of young people to our projects. The goat breeding projects in Ngora and Kamuli are doing well and so are the solar project and the new energy and construction company in Ngora. There has been an inevitable slow down on agro-forestry in Ngora because of our failed bid for funds but they are doing what they can with what they have. More on these in the next edition.



**MARCHNAD LLANFYLLIN**  
*Nadolig* *Christmas*  
**LLANFYLLIN MARKET**

**Llanfyllin Christmas Market**  
**Friday 30th Nov 2018 4pm - 7:30pm**

Please support the Dolen Ffermio stall inside the Cross Keys to raise funds for our Ugandan projects  
 Contributions such as preserves, small packages of sweets, fudge, biscuits, cakes, etc would be most welcome. If you can help please phone Lorna on 648709 or email [uk@lornabrown.net](mailto:uk@lornabrown.net).



**CROSS KEYS**  
**LLANFYLLIN**  
**REGGAE, SKA & JAZZ**  
**ART BLANK COMBO**

**£4**

AND **DUB** WITH **BARE ROOTS**

**7.30PM FRIDAY 30 NOVEMBER**  
 FOR THE BENEFIT OF BEN UGANDA & DOLEN FFERMIO  
 HOT FOOD AVAILABLE BUT BRING YOUR OWN ALCOHOL

## Christmas Gifts for NOVC Orphans & Vulnerable Children by Cordelia Weedon

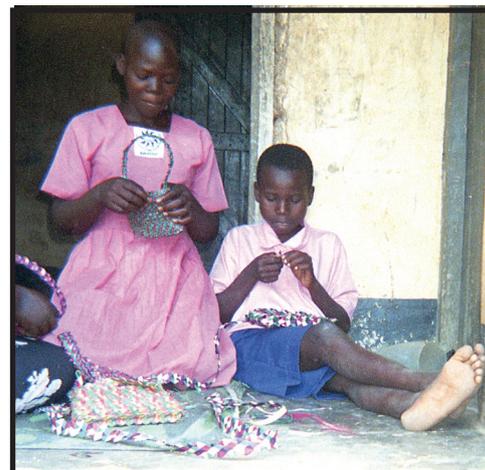
The season of goodwill is upon us again and you can find plenty of gifts in our new catalogue that will help with food security and keep the children in education. A relatively small amount of money will make so much difference to the children who need our support. Your catalogue will be enclosed here and others are available in local venues such as libraries, community centres. From 3<sup>rd</sup> December until Christmas there will be a small display in Oswestry library with catalogues, leaflets, photo diaries and project crafts and we will have a stall at Llanfyllin Christmas Market, on 30<sup>th</sup> November, with catalogues, gift cards, crafts, and many other goodies for sale.

Occasionally people assume we help fund orphanages, which have had a bit of a bad press recently. However, our projects have never worked like this. There are hardly any orphanages in the Teso region of Uganda where we work, as they are not needed. Orphans and vulnerable children are cared for by members of their extended family in their own communities, which enables them to grow and thrive much better than in an institution.

More information on our website and don't forget to keep a lookout for more regular updates on Twitter as @dolenffermio and Facebook as Dolen Ffermio

As we go into our sixth year of supporting the Ngora Orphans & Vulnerable Children project (NOVC), we have continued with the same ethos, while also taking into account the challenges we've encountered along the way and adapting things accordingly. Moses Ekoi and his dedicated team are hoping to develop the project into one that is more inclusive and beneficial for the whole community. Plans for this are work in progress, and it is an exciting development. In the meantime, we will continue to support the children and their carer families for the next few years with the gifts in the catalogue. We were very fortunate to have Cate Wallington to deal with your donations over the past two years. A new volunteer, Rachael Sharpe, is taking over from Cate and her contact details are on the catalogue. We are enormously grateful to both Cate and Rachael.

William Asiata was one of my students on the Photo Diary Project and in this photo he has captured his friends weaving some of the bags made as part of the Skills Training, which get sold to raise money for the project. In one of his letters to supporters he says: *"Really I would have been not studying but with your support I can study. For sure I am no longer wasted, and I am going to help others because of your support"*



## The Permaculture Revolution

**PERMACULTURE** is really taking off in Uganda, its principles of diverse cropping encouraging maximum yields from small farms, while ensuring environmental conservation. There are many definitions of permaculture: one is "an innovative framework for creating sustainable ways of living; a practical method for developing ecologically harmonious, efficient and productive systems that can be used by anyone, anywhere."

A very successful permaculture design course (PDC) was organised by our permaculture consultant Charles Mugarura, of Broadfield Enterprises Uganda, and Steve Jones, of Sector 39, Llanrhaedr-ym-Mochnant, at Charles' old school, Sabina, Rakai, Western Uganda with 5 African countries represented. Of 42 delegates, 3 were sponsored by Dolen Ffermio, plus 7 more of our colleagues who attended the convergence which followed the 2 week course. Nationals of 7 African countries, Australia and UK were there. Hellen Aanyu, the chairperson of NOVC was elected as Northern Ugandan representative of the new African Permaculture Association. The Ugandan Minister for Education, Rosemary Seminbe, attended the event.

Charles is organising another PDC "Practical Permaculture" at Sabina School 10th to 23rd December, with Morag Gamble, a senior permaculturalist of the Permaculture Education Institute of Australia monitoring the course. We are presently raising funds to sponsor teachers to attend in order to give a boost to our plan for introducing Permaculture into schools over there. This was started by Connie Kauma and her student team at Busoga High School, and they will help Charles to roll it out to many more schools in Kamuli district. Dolen Ffermio supporter Jake Garland is organising a music gig (see advert on the front page) for the PDC, please come along.

### Data Protection

The new data protection regulations (GDPR) are now in place and we would like to reassure all supporters that Dolen Ffermio only uses your data in order to respond to your donations and enquiries and to send you two newsletters a year for a limited period. If you do not wish to receive newsletters, please contact Emyr Owen (details at the end). We will never use your data for any other purpose nor will we pass your data on to anyone else.

## Good Progress on the Kamuli Land

A major development is that the large valley dam has now been dug. It will fill from a natural spring, and from swales (ditches) dug across the land which will retain rainwater as it flows down the land. Irrigation for trees and crops can now take place in the dry season by pumping from the dam. Planting will take place along swales and dam perimeter to retain the walls. Very grateful thanks to supporters who have funded both of these developments in response to an appeal made by member Tom Paddon at the 2018 AGM.

The accommodation area for volunteer workers or researchers has been started. Ground has been cleared and a large, raised metal framed wooden platform has been erected to support the sleeping quarters. Again, our very grateful thanks to a member who has very generously funded this.



Rachel Nairuba, one of the DFEFHO team, admiring the valley dam

We failed to win a grant from the Welsh Assembly to develop the tree and bamboo nursery, accommodation, irrigation solar pump and training activities. However, our colleagues are going ahead, on a smaller scale. Bamboo planting has started, as well as many vegetables and crops, maize, beans, and banana. The accommodation platform cover will be re-designed using local materials. Hire of diesel pumps will replace solar for a time, and we will re-apply for training funds.

### Photo Diary Project by Cordelia Weedon

The children's Photo Diaries are used whenever possible to illustrate project work in our fundraising leaflets, and awareness raising exhibitions. It's important that the young people are able to take part in this, tell their stories and represent themselves. Also they often capture the kind of pictures that would be hard for an outsider to get. Their Photo Diaries were shown over the summer at Y Dolydd Workhouse Gallery and Arts Connection Top Floor Gallery. Visitors were asked to make comments about their pictures, and judging by their comments their work is much appreciated in Wales.



This is just one comment made by Rhian Davies, who visited Uganda in 2017. *"I really enjoyed the exhibition – I liked the drawings and the writing that each child had done, and it was lovely to see places again, like Nyero Rock Paintings, that we visited on the Dolen Ffermio trip"*

### My Trip To Uganda "a true pleasure" by Lloyd Davies

One of the visitors to Uganda this autumn was Lloyd Davies, formerly head boy of Llanfyllin High School. Lloyd threw himself into the experience with great enthusiasm and was wholeheartedly welcomed by everyone he met. He was involved with work on the ground in Kamuli and helping Charles prepare for the PDC at Sabina School. This is what he says about the trip:

*"To have the opportunity to see the work of Dolen Ffermio was a true pleasure. To be part of a couple of small projects whilst being there was a wonderful experience for how I'm able to help people in Africa. The Lloyd that went to Uganda was the same Lloyd that came back, but returned with a different outlook on life and has made me a better person inside. A massive thank you to Dolen Ffermio for giving me the opportunity to go and see some of the wonders of Uganda and being a small part of a huge team effort here in Wales and in Uganda".*



Lloyd with Oliver Nambi (headmistress) and Connie Kauma of Busoga High School

## “A truly life changing” trip to Uganda

In September four Young Farmers' Club (YFC) members, Gwenno Edwards, Carys Richards, Hannah Powell and William Boulton were accepted by the Wales National YFC International programme for a 2 week visit to Uganda, organised by Dolen Ffermio. They visited all our projects in Kamuli and Ngora districts. Time was too short for much practical involvement, but they did help to plant the first bamboo cuttings and a new matooke banana plantation on the Kamuli land. They also visited schools, hospitals, farms, including a new dairy co-operative, and some family homes of NOVC children. There was relaxation at Murchison Falls National Game Park, and the Sipi Falls 'Coffee Plantation Experience'.

Our Uganda colleagues very much enjoyed meeting them and sharing interests. Hannah described the trip as “truly life changing and the experience of Uganda will stay with me for life. The work of Dolen Ffermio is pro-active, and it was very interesting to see the various projects. It makes me proud that Wales is helping with such projects and changing the lives and outcomes for people in Uganda.” William commented that “Uganda is the most underestimated country that I have been to, the people are so welcoming and joyful.”



Hannah, who is a nurse, said the difficulties in delivering medical services in Uganda made her really appreciate her position in the NHS. She assisted at a Caesarean section during an electricity cut, which prompted Gwenno to say: “From showering out of a jerry can, to seeing people go for C-sections with no electricity, just shows how life goes on out there without the basic amenities that would cause our country to come to a standstill.” The group was looked after by our permaculture consultant, Charles Mugarura, who visited Wales last December and whom they described as “a great host, whose friendly character made us feel very safe and our travels in Uganda even more enjoyable.”

We want to thank the group for their participation and hope that the visit will be the beginning of further collaboration with Wales YFC.

## Indispensable Fundraising

It goes without saying that fundraising is an indispensable part of our work. The aim of our Ugandan partners (and ours too, of course) is for the projects to become self-supporting and they are making strides towards that. Until they reach that point, please continue to support us in our efforts to support them. All money raised goes out to Uganda, except for a small amount kept back for postage, printing, stationery, audit and bank charges and we are all unpaid volunteers in the UK.

Our spring sale was our main event this year, raising over £1800, and was as popular as ever. Thank you to everyone who grew plants, helped and came to support it. We attended many other events throughout the year, including the Llanfyllin Show, St Myllin's Day, the Bodfach Open Day amongst others. Please join us at the Llanfyllin Christmas Market and the gig organised by Jake Garland (see front page).

We are extremely grateful to The Community Foundation in Wales and individuals who gave us incredibly generous donations this year, as well as the churches and chapels whose congregations supported us. We make a plea to everyone who reads this newsletter to help us in whatever way you can and, if you have any ideas for fundraising events, we would love to hear from you.



## Ngora Women's Tailoring group

The group of 9 women is developing really well and they have just completed 120 school uniforms for the NOVC students. They would be glad of some funds to purchase cloth for the next ventures.

Contact Emyr Owen, 10 Regent Court, Rofft Street, Oswestry SY11 2BU; 01691 656961; emyr.owen.bron@btinternet.com  
If you would like to be removed from the mailing list or if you have an email address we could use, please let Emyr know.